

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

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EUCOM

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CY

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING
JULY 18 DEALING WITH THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS.

QUOTE: Q: SPECIFICALLY TO A REPORT IN THE NEW YORK TIMES
THIS MORNING THAT THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT
WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED ON
MAKARIOS, WITH THE SECRETARY VETOING AN AFFIRMATION OF
SUPPORT FOR MAKARIOS. THAT IS FREELY TRANSLATING THE TIMES
STORY, BUT IT IS TO THAT EFFECT, I BELIEVE. WAS THERE THAT
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SORT OF DISAGREEMENT, AND DID THE SECRETARY TAKE SUCH
ACTION?

A: ON THIS QUESTION, I WANT TO SAY JUST THIS: WE JUST ARE

NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON ANY INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS THAT WE MAY HAVE ON THIS QUESTION OR ANY OTHER QUESTION THAT COMES UP FOR DISCUSSION IN THE DEPARTMENT.

Q: COULD YOU CORRECT SOMETHING, IF IT IS INCORRECT. IN THE SAME NEWSPAPER THIS MORNING -- I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS THE SAME STORY -- PRACTICALLY THE LEAD OF THE STORY SAID THAT HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WERE LEANING TOWARDS SUPPORT OF THE SAMPSON GOVERNMENT. IS THAT AN ACCURATE

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION? AND IF NOT, COULD YOU GIVE US A MORE PRECISE EXPLANATION OF WHAT AMERICAN POLICY IS RIGHT NOW?

A: I THINK THAT AS FAR AS OUR CURRENT POLICY, I AM GOING TO REFER YOU TO WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR THE LAST TWO OR THREE DAYS HER ON CYPRUS. I AM NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANY FURTHER. THERE IS, AS YOU KNOW, RATHER INTENSE DIPLOMATIC ACTION WHICH IS GOING ON WHICH SHOULD NOT BE PUT IN THE PUBLIC RECORD RIGHT NOW. INCIDENTALLY, IN THAT CONNECTION, WITH REGARD TO UNDER SECRETARY SISCO, HE ARRIVED IN LONDON THIS MORNING, AND HE HAS SEEN FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN AND TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT, AND HE WILL BE CONDUCTING FURTHER CONVERSATIONS DURING THE DAY. AND HE WILL THEN BE GOING TO ATHENS. THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR HIM TO GO TO ANKARA, BUT THAT IS CERTAINLY A POSSIBILITY.

Q: WHEN IS HE GOING TO ATHENS -- TOMORROW?

A: I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT TIME. BUT AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS TALKS IN LONDON.

Q: YOU MENTIONED CALLAGHAN. HE TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT BEARS HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SITUATION IN THE ISLAND. ARE YOU IN THE MOOD TO JOIN HIM IN THIS CHARACTERIZATION?

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A: I FRANKLY AT THIS STAGE WANT TO JUST STAY WHERE I HAVE BEEN, AND I HAVE STATED WHAT OUR POLICY IS NUMEROUS TIMES YESTERDAY AND TODAY.

Q: IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHAT THE POLICY IS. COULD YOU TRY FOR US TO DEFINE MORE CLOSELY WHAT U.S. POLICY IS AT THIS TIME, IN REGARD TO THE NEW REGIME IN CYPRUS?

Q: CAN I JOIN YOU, IN ADDING -- YOUR POLICY, WHICH YOU STATED SEVERAL TIMES NOW, IS SORT OF A NEGATIVE; WE DON'T WANT WAR, WE DON'T WANT DESTABILIZATION OF THE SITUATION. THESE ARE NEGATIVES.

A: YOU CAN MAKE THAT POSITIVE AND SAY WE WANT PEACE, THEN, IF YOU WANT TO GET THE NEGATIVE VERBOUT. I REALLY DISAGREE THAT WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING IS NEGATIVE. WHAT OUR POLICY IS, IS TO SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS AND ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE ARE URGING RESTRAINTS ON ALL SIDES. AND THAT IS WHERE IT STANDS AS OF NOW.

Q: DOES CYPRUS NOW HAVE INDEPENDENCE, IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE COUP WAS CARRIED OUT BY A GREEK ARMY OFFICER? IS CYPRUS NOW IN AN INDEPENDENT STATUS, WHICH IS THE STATUS WE WANT?

A: AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, CYPRUS IS STILL AN INDEPENDENT NATION, YES.

Q: YESTERDAY YOU SAID THAT IN YOUR VIEW THERE HAD BEEN NO INTERFERENCE, OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, IN CYPRUS, BUT THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION WAS STILL VERY UNCLEAR. TWENTY-FOUR HOURS LATER, IS IT STILL YOUR FEELING THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN CYPRUS?

A: ON THE QUESTION OF ANY FORCES COMING IN FROM THE OUTSIDE, YES, THAT IS MY VIEW, THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO --

Q: WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT FORCES FROM THE OUTSIDE. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT INFLUENCE, POLITICAL INFLUENCE, WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD HAVE LED A GROUP OF GREEK ARMY OFFICERS, MEMBERS OF THE GREEK ARMY, TO TAKE ACTION. I THINK THAT IS THE KIND OF OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE WE ARE DISCUSSING. COULD YOU ADDRESS YOURSELF TO THAT?

A: YES, WILL. ON THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE FROM THE OUTSIDE, I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON IT IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER. IT IS A VERY COMPLICATED SITUATION, AND WE ARE DOING OUR BEST RIGHT NOW THROUGH, AS I SAID EARLIER -- THROUGH VERY INTENSE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY TO TRY AND DO WHAT WE CAN TO SEE THAT THE SITUATION DOES NOT DESTABILIZE.

Q: DOES THAT DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO GREECE THAT THE OFFICERS BE RECALLED?

A: I JUST DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH ANY OF THE PIECEMEAL ASPECTS OF THIS RATHER COMPLICATED PUZZLE, AT THIS TIME.

Q: TO BUTTON DOWN MAYBE ONE POINT. YESTERDAY THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION WAS IN ABEYANCE. IS IT STILL IN ABEYANCE?

A: IT STILL IS IN ABEYANCE.

Q: DID MR. SISCO GO WITH INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT MAKARIOS?

A: I DO NOT KNOW THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS THAT UNDER SECRETARY SISCO HAD WHEN HE LEFT.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHY HE DID NOT MEET WITH PRESIDENT MAKARIOS?

A: I CAN MAKE AN EDUCATED GUESS. AS I TRY TO FIGURE OUT THE TIMING OF THE ARRIVAL OF MR. SISCO IN LONDON, AND THE REPORTED DEPARTURE OF THE ARCHBISHOP FROM LONDON, I DON'T THINK THEY WOULD HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO MEET.

Q: NO, -- MR. SISCO LANDED THERE THIS MORNING, AND THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENT LEFT AT 1:30 LONDON TIME. THEY WERE IN THE CAPITAL AT LEAST FOR THREE HOURS.

A: WELL, I WAS TOLD HE MIGHT HAVE LEFT A LITTLE EARLIER. I READ IN A DISPATCH THAT HE MIGHT HAVE LEFT A LITTLE EARLIER. SO I GUESS THE SHORT ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q: THE OTHER THING IS, DO WE HAVE A POSITION ON THE MYRIAD SUGGESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN FLOATING AROUND THE UN FOR A RESOLUTION? THERE IS ONE WHICH IS REPORTED -- THE WIRE SERVICES HAVE REPORTED A RESOLUTION BY FIVE MEMBERS. HAVE YOU SEEN THAT, AND IF SO DO YOU HAVE ANY GUIDANCE FOR US, AS TO HOW WE STAND ON THAT RESOLUTION?

A: I HAVE SEEN THAT REPORT, BUT I HAVE NO GUIDANCE FOR YOU ON WHAT OUR POSITION MAY BE ON THE VARIOUS POINTS THAT MAY BE PUT FORWARD IN THIS FIVE POWER RESOLUTION.

Q: BEFORE I FORGET IT, WHAT TIME IS THE SECRETARY LEAVING FOR SAN CLEMENTE, AND WHEN DOES HE PLAN TO COME BACK -- DO YOU KNOW?

A: HE LEAVES AT THE END OF THE AFTERNOON -- I THINK IT IS 4:30 OR 5:00. AS FOR WHEN HE IS COMING BACK, THE EXACT TIME IS NOT SET. IT WILL EITHER BE SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SATURDAY NIGHT OR SUNDAY MORNING -- IN THERE. BUT I DON'T HAVE IT EXACTLY.

Q: ARE THERE ANY MORE MEETINGS? YESTERDAY YOU TOLD US ABOUT A MEETING BETWEEN DAVIES AND THE NEW CYPRIOT FOREIGN MINISTER, I BELIEVE. HAVE THERE BEEN FOLLOW-UP

MEETINGS? THERE WAS ONE.

A: YES -- THE ONE THAT I MENTIONED. LET ME CHECK THAT, BECAUSE I JUST AM NOT -- THERE MAY HAVE BEEN ONE MORE, BUT LET ME CHECK.

Q: IF YOU LOOK INTO IT -- AND I SUPPOSE YOU WILL POST IT -- CAN YOU ALSO INCLUDE WHO INITIATED, AS YOU DID YESTERDAY?

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A: WELL, I AM SURE IF THERE WAS A MEETING, THAT THE INITIATION WOULD HAVE BEEN EXACTLY THE SAME WAY. WE WOULD NOT HAVE INITIATED IT. I CAN SAY THAT CATEGORICALLY. IF THERE WAS A MEETING.

Q: HAS THE NEW GOVERNMENT GIVEN ANY ASSURANCES TO THE UNITED STATES THAT IT WILL RESPECT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF CYPRUS?

A: I AM UNAWARE THAT THAT SUBJECT HAS COME UP. IT DID NOT COME UP IN THE FIRST MEETING THAT I REPORTED ON HERE YESTERDAY.

Q: YESTERDAY IN BRUSSELS THE NATO SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT AT THE COUNCIL MEETING IN CYPRUS TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR MAKARIOS AND HIS ELECTED GOVERNMENT, AND TO SUPPORT THE BRITISH INITIATIVE CALLING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GREEK OFFICERS. DID THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE APPROVE THAT STATEMENT?

A: AS I MENTIONED IN RESPONSE TO TWO OR THREE CALLS YESTERDAY, AFTER YESTERDAY'S NATO COUNCIL MEETING, THERE WAS AN OFFICIAL NATO COMMUNIQUE ON THE MEETING, WHICH CORRESPONDED TO EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING HERE, URGING RESTRAINT, ETC. AND THEN IN ONE OR TWO DISPATCHES, IT SAID A HIGH OFFICIAL - I ASSUME OF NATO - THEN SAID WHAT YOU DID. BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE IS A SEPARATION HERE BETWEEN THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT AND WHAT THAT HIGH OFFICIAL SPECULATED. NOW, ALL I WOULD LIKE TO SAY ON THAT IS THAT OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE NATO COUNCIL, DURING THE THREE OR FOUR MEETINGS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD, HAS SAID NOTHING THAT IS INCONSISTENT WITH WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING HERE ON THIS PODIUM.

Q: I AM SORRY TO ASK A QUESTION WHICH MAY SOUND LIKE I'M REHASHING OLD GROUND, BUT IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS, LET ME GO BACK TO AN EARLIER QUESTION WHICH DEALT WITH THE PRESS ACCOUNT SUGGESTING THAT THIS COUNTRY WAS TILTING TOWARDS THE SAMPSON REGIME. NOTHING YOU HAVE SAID HERE HAS DISAVOWED THAT. NOW, AM I GETTING

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THE WRONG IMPRESSION?

A: YES, YOU ARE.

I THINK THAT IF ONE WISHES TO READ MY VERBATIM RECORD OF YESTERDAY'S BRIEFING AND THE DAY BEFORE, THERE SHOULD BE NO CONFUSION ON THAT. THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS

UNCLEAR. THE OVERALL POLITICAL SITUATION IS UNCLEAR. I MEAN THERE ARE INTENSE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES GOING ON IN LONDON. THERE ARE TALKS GOING ON IN NATO, IN ATHENS, IN ANKARA. NOW THE UNITED NATIONS WILL BE DEALING WITH THIS SUBJECT. AND WE ARE NOT TAKING ANY POSITION, FOR EXAMPLE, ON THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION AT THIS TIME. I SUGGEST IF YOU WANT TO REVIEW WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, IT IS AVAILABLE FOR YOU.

Q: CAN'T YOU SAY FLATLY THE UNITED STATES IS NOT LEANING TOWARDS --

A: I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE IT JUST THE WAY I SAID IT NOW. I DON'T WANT TO COME OUT WITH THE KIND OF STATEMENT YOU ARE TRYING TO DRIVE ME INTO.

Q: WOULD THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO RESTORE MAKARIOS TO POWER?

A: I JUST DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THAT, I'M SORRY.

Q: COULD YOU TELL US HOW MUCH CONSULTATION OR CONFERENCE OR DISCUSSION THERE HAS BEEN WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON THIS MATTER? HAS THE SECRETARY HERE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN?

A: YES, HE HAS.

Q: WHEN AND ---

A: THERE ARE CONVERSATIONS GOING ON. TO BE HONEST WITH YOU -- I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ALL THE SPECIFIC TIMES. BUT LET US JUST SAY THAT WE ARE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE
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SOVIETS.

Q: WE HAVE GOTTEN THE IMPRESSION HERE THAT, DESPITE ALL YOUR EFFORTS, MAYBE BECAUSE OF THEM, IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, THAT UNITED STATES POLICY IS SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS

AT THIS POINT. IS THAT TO SOME EXTENT IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT ANY KIND OF A CONFLICT OR A POLARIZATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON THIS SUBJECT -- BEING FROZEN INTO ANY KIND OF A HARD POSITION THAT WOULD PIT US AGAINST THEM?

A: NO. OUR MAJOR OBJECTIVE HERE IS, AS I HAVE STATED, TO TRY AND MAKE SURE THE SITUATION DOESN'T DESTABILIZE. THERE IS NO CONFRONTATION HERE IN THIS SITUATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

Q: DO YOU YET HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE OF WHETHER ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS IS GOING TO ACCEPT THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE'S INVITATION TO TESTIFY, AND IF SO ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR HIM TO MEET ANYBODY AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A: ON THAT, LET ME SAY ONE THING -- AND I WOULD LIKE TO DO THIS PART ON BACKGROUND BECAUSE IT IS NOT UP TO ME TO DISCUSS INVITATIONS ISSUED BY SENATOR FULBRIGHT. BUT OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SENATOR FULBRIGHT PERSONALLY INVITED -- ISSUED A PERSONAL INVITATION TO THE ARCHBISHOP TO COME TO WASHINGTON AND TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. AND THAT IS ON BACKGROUND. AND THEN WITH REGARD TO YOUR OTHER QUESTION WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY REQUEST BY THE ARCHBISHOP TO MEET WITH ANYONE.

Q: WHO IS GOING TO MEET HIM? IS ANYBODY GOING TO MEET HIM WHEN HE ARRIVES IN NEW YORK -- STATE DEPARTMENT PROTOCOL?

A: I CHECKED INTO THAT JUST BEFORE I CAME DOWN, AND THE USUAL PROCEDURE WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED, AND IN THIS CASE ALSO, IS THAT THE UNITED NATIONS PROTOCOL OFFICE WILL BE MEETING HIM WHEN HE ARRIVES.

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Q: YES, BUT AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED, NOBODY IS GOING TO MEET HIM.

A: NO, WE ARE NOT. BUT THIS IS NOTHING EXCEPTIONAL, AS I UNDERSTAND IT. WHEN PEOPLE COME OVER TO A UNITED NATIONS FUNCTION, IT IS THE UNITED NATIONS PROTOCOL OFFICE THAT DOES THE GREETING IN NEW YORK. I MEAN IT IS NOT OUR U.S. DELEGATION OFFICE.

Q: N REFERENCE TO YOUR ANSWER TO A PREVIOUS QUESTION, BESIDES HIS REQUEST TO MEET WITH ANYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT, IS ANYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT PREPARING TO INVITE HIM TO COME FOR TALKS HERE?

A: NO. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH PLANS. END QUOTE INGERSOLL

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